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Volume 30

Number 1 *The Iowa Homemaker* vol.30, no.1

Article 4

1950

How To Be a Make-Shift Decorator

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Recommended Citation

Longfellow, Lois (1950) "How To Be a Make-Shift Decorator," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 30 : No. 1 , Article 4.

Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol30/iss1/4>

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Jessica Weise and Mary Ann Carmean's room in Welch Hall BEFORE their M.D. magic touch.

How to



The same room AFTER they used their M.D. skill.

IF YOUR college room gives you the definite glooms; if the room looks like a storage place instead of a living place for you, do something. It's easy to turn your little "home" into something that's really individual.

Take a look at your walls. Are they pretty bleak? Well, you're the doctor, and that's nothing an M.D. (Make-shift Decorator) can't cure with a paint brush, some pep, and a few supplies.

Pictured proof that even a college room can look like an interior decorator's dream comes from these views of Jessica Weise and Mary Ann Carmean's room in Welch Hall.

Color is a good thing on which to concentrate. Clear, bold colors are bound to help you win this tug-of-war with those plain walls. Jessica and Mary Ann choose red and black with accents of vivid greens and blues to add spark to their room. The walls take on life with panels of red pebbly textured wallpaper with scalloped edges hanging from the molding. A black screen decorated with an oriental painting done in red, green and blue adds a note of charm and *privacy*. It sets off the wash bowl from the rest of the room and makes a perfect spot to conceal a small dressing table. Jessica and Mary Ann quickly converted an orange crate into a dressing table by tacking a bright green chintz skirt around it.

Make Curtains Curt

Curtains are best when they are *curt!* Jessica and Mary Ann added this window interest by a black border cornice of cardboard around the windows. They used white organdy curtains under the cornice for a touch of delicate femininity. You could dress

your windows in saucy gingham and sew big white applique bows to either side with soft thick wool. Any all-thumbs amateur can do this trick. It doesn't call for little stitches, worried into knots and doodads. There's beauty in simplicity, and these curtains are simple and to the point. You might like to use flat-to-the-wall drapes in a fabric and color which matches the bedspread and closely harmonizes with the walls. This would create the illusion of a larger room.

Couch beds are a must to give the illusion of a living room. If your beds stand out like the well-known sore thumb, push them into the most appropriate corner, as Jessica and Mary Ann did. Their room takes on a bit of the dramatic with blue satin spreads on the beds. You might choose denim, mattress ticking, cotton corduroy, quilted, printed or plaid cottons for your couch bed cover.

Plump pillows will add comfort to your sitting arrangement. Pajamas, socks, and letters from the heart throb might just as well stuff a felt envelope you can whip up yourself. Stitch the sides, the cords, and throw it on your bed, along with all your soft stuffed animals and pillows.

One or two chairs facing your couch with a low table between help to create a living-room air. Jessica and Mary Ann believe that every piece of furniture should work hard for its keep so their low table doubles as a card table and storage space. A card table with the legs folded up rests on a large wooden storage box. A fur textured table cover transforms the card table into an intriguing conversation piece.

Where to stow your sweaters, old notes, ice skates, and what have you? Right in a wooden bucket (\$1.59) that you have cleverly painted your favorite colors. Then use it to sit on. Fit a soft seat cushion into

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Make-Shift Decorator

You can bring your room to life. A change here and there will transform your college room into a place to live instead of just a place to study and sleep.

by Lois Longfellow

your rocker and you're ready to sit down for a good old fashioned talk session.

Even your floor can add a spirit of hominess to your room. Jessica and Mary Ann covered theirs with a large fur rug for that inviting look. Remember that a few scatter rugs will eat up space like a glutton. Use one large one for unity.

Now for a second look at your room. When you're tired at the end of the day, is your room as sweet as home? Or is it just the place where you hang your clothes — where you live, but your heart doesn't. In this case, you're in for more fun.

Look at Lamps

Tired of the same old lamp shades? Transform them into the bright perky accessories they should be. Cut light colored plain fabric on the bias to fit your shade. Pin and stretch it over the shade until all wrinkles disappear, then seam the edges together and sew on rows of dyed pearl buttons or large sequins, top and bottom. Turn in the edges; sew invisibly. Now that lamp is really living.

To make a shade that looks as delicate as frosting but can still be removed for laundering start with a piece of eyelet ruffling which is twice as long as the distance around your lamp shade at the widest part and as wide as your shade is high. Lace white or black velvet ribbon through the beading at the top of your eyelet circle; gather the fabric to fit the shade.

While you're touching up your lamps notice Jessica and Mary Ann's idea of using the lamp base as a display ground for a pot of ivy or philodendron. A chicken feeder with a fluted edge is transformed

into an attractive plant holder by a coat of paint.

The lamp shade which is put on an ordinary study lamp is painted with black shoe polish. Red wool yarn is wrapped diagonally around it for contrast. A black satin bow adds the finishing touch. The rolled linoleum stem of the lamp is also painted black with a single strand of red yarn twisted around it.

You might try filling an attractive old bottle with colored water and using it as a lamp stem. Matching cotton yard could be twisted around the shade to make a complete unit.

No pin up lamps allowed on plaster wall, so nail yours to a smooth, round bread board and hang it safely from the ceiling molding. You could also tie the lamp securely to the pipes in your room as Jessica and Mary Ann did.

Collections are fun and you can add to the pleasure they give by using them for a decorative purpose. Paste luggage stickers and matching book covers on lamp-shades and wastebaskets, or anchor them under the glass on your dresser table top. A quick coat of varnish will mellow and protect the colors.

Personality Plus

Little accessories add the personality to your room. Cut out flowers from scraps of chintz and paste them on a mirror frame, or border an unframed mirror. But don't let the frame get too fussy. At the Chemistry Building you can buy wonderful inexpensive flacons and plates which make lovely vases, candy dishes and fruit bowls. Stencil delicate painted designs onto your wastepaper baskets and personal accessories. Cover a wastepaper basket with old maps, or remodel your bulletin board with burlap.